

HOUSE BILL 2498
By DeBerry L

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, relative to access to health care for underserved or disadvantaged populations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section to be appropriately designated:

Section _____. (a) There is hereby established a program for health care professional development for underserved and disadvantaged populations in Tennessee at Meharry Medical College School of Medicine. The program shall develop resources for recruiting, training and deploying physicians for service in areas of Tennessee with disadvantaged and medically underserved populations.

(b) The program shall:

- (1) Develop programs in undergraduate medical education with positions for qualified Tennessee residents, especially for residents from disadvantaged and medically underserved areas;
- (2) Expand specialty training in family medicine, preventive medicine, and enhance generalist physician training in the disciplines of internal medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics/gynecology;
- (3) Increase recruitment of students from disadvantaged communities and health resource shortage areas of the state;

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- (4) Deploy physicians into disadvantaged communities in service to local health departments and counties demonstrating need;
- (5) Expand academic and student support services as required for enrolled Meharry students from disadvantaged communities and health resource shortage areas of the state.
- (c) Subject to appropriation, beginning with 1998-1999 fiscal year and in each subsequent fiscal year, the commissioner of health shall enter into a grant agreement with Meharry Medical College to provide no less than eight million dollars (\$8,000,000) annually for the purposes authorized in subsection (b). The commissioner of health shall include this grant in programs developed pursuant to Section 66-29-151.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.